339 "Before the war this factory was fully mechanized, driven by electric power from an 85 kilowatt dynamo and producing ten million bricks a year. Today the only mechanized processes are the elevation of clay and the actual mixing and pressing of the brick. The clay is dug from the nearby river bank by hand. Water is pumped from the river by hand, six women operating a rocker hand-pump, three at each handle. The freshly processed bricks are lifted by hand from the machine into small cars, and the latter are then pushed by hand over a track to the drying sheds and furnace where again all operations are by hand. Power for the processing machine is supplied by one antiquated 60-horse-power stationary steam engine which broke down once during our short visit.

[433] "The production goal for 1946 at this Polotsk plant[1] is four million bricks, estimated by the Russian director as enough to build 40 apartment houses of ten four-room apartments each. Present output is limited to the capacity of one double-nozzle pressing machine, which we estimated could produce approximately 23,000 bricks per eight-hour day. This output may be contrasted with the brick plant in the UNRRA programme which is to have a specified capacity of 60,000 bricks per eight hours."

727 393 433 Probably typical of the general industrial situation in 1946 was a radio factory at Minsk, visited by UNRRA Mission observers in May. Before the war it was said to be the largest radio factory in the Soviet Union, with an output of 1,000 radios weekly. The Germans removed all the machine tools and other equipment and wrecked the interior of the building, leaving only the outer walls standing. Partial rebuilding of this factory required more than a year. Machine tools were brought from Germany, and the factory in May 1946 was estimated to be producing some what less than a third of its pre-war rate. Before the war the factory had a staff of 2,200 persons. The labour force at the time of these observations was 550, plus 60 to 70 German war prisoners. Of the workers employed, only 50 had worked in that particular factory before the war. Many of the present workers are very young, some just in their teens; and a large percentage is women. Since the factory itself had no training programme, its workers were trained in the Labour Reserve.

•323 433 Where no machine tools are available, progress is even more limited, and the range of possible products is much reduced. For instance, the glass factory at Borisov is limited to hand-blown articles. No rolling equipment was available; hence no flat glass could be produced, although window glass was urgently needed for reconstruction of other industries and of housing. In the Vitebsk garment factory, the only sewing machines available are treadle-operated old fashioned models. In many instances, shoe production was largely confined to hand cobbling. Even where the factories have been restored and could produce more, the shortage of raw materials 433 depresses their output. The linen factory in Orsha was the largest in the Soviet Union before the war. In 1946 it was 70 per cent. restored, but flax production was so limited that the factory was

[1] [Brick factory No. 4--Analyst]